



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL HEALTH CARE NEW ENGLAND
43 SMITH ROAD
NEWPORT RI 02841-1002

6000 REPLY REFER TO:
Ser 71/00236
January 20, 2006

Dear Congressman:

The Naval Health Care New England (NHCNE) team is committed to providing your TRICARE eligible constituents with timely and quality pharmaceutical care and medication information. Pursuant to Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs memorandum HA Policy: 04-032, dated 22 December 2004, all military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacies are required to operate an effective, efficient, integrated pharmacy benefits program. In an effort to standardize policies between the many facets of the Military Health System, NHCNE pharmacies will begin using a Preferred Medication List or formulary.

Effective June 1, 2006, NHCNE will modify its formulary to include a preferred medication list. A formulary is simply a list of pharmaceutical products (medications and related supplies) that are carried at a facility and are designed to meet the prescribing needs of the providers at that facility. Medications are selected for this preferred medication list based upon standard-of-care, therapeutic effectiveness, prescription volume, and economics (cost). The content is determined by both the Department of Defense the local NHCNE Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committees. NHCNE's preferred medication list will be available over the internet at the NHCNE web-site: <http://nhcne.med.navy.mil/pharmacy/formulary.asp>. Additionally, at your request, a hard-copy of this preferred medication list will be mailed directly to your office once printing of the brochure is complete. The preferred medication list, as well as periodic updates, will be made available over the internet and in hard-copy for your TRICARE eligible constituents.

All patients affected by the change to our Preferred Medication List will be provided with one last refill, up to a 90-day supply of the medication. A lesser supply may be provided if directed by the health care provider pursuant to the original prescription. The beneficiary will be provided both oral and written consultation by the pharmacy that the medication will no longer be available as well as a list of available therapeutic alternatives that their provider may consider in their care.

Additionally, alternative TRICARE Pharmacy benefit options do exist for those TRICARE eligible constituents who can not be converted to a formulary item or if the conversion is deemed inappropriate by their healthcare provider. Upon request, your office may receive information outlining these alternative pharmacy benefits options; the TRICARE Retail Pharmacy network (TRRx) and the TRICARE Mail-Order Pharmacy (TMOP).

In accordance with HA Policy: 04-032, NHCNE facilities will make non-formulary medications available to patients who are enrolled to this facility as their Primary Care Manager after validation of medical necessity and completion of appropriate special order procedures. This special order policy also applies to civilian prescriptions written for MTF enrolled beneficiaries who were referred out for specialty care.

In an effort to disseminate this information to the widest extent possible, NHCNE is undertaking a direct-to-patient, provider and special interest group letter mailing, as well as press releases to local area newspapers.

Thank you for your continued support of the military health system.

Sincerely,

P. J. GOODIN
Captain, NC, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer